

# **Global Fire Monitoring Center Staff Experience Wildland Fire Management 'Up Close'**

**August 16 - 22, 2001**

A select group of five junior staff of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) entered into a program focusing on fire ecology/management. These staff members are also German Forestry Science students attending the University of Freiburg. This summer three of the staff members went to Russia and two staff members traveled to the United States. Boris Weigele and Andreas Casper were hosted by the Craig/Routt Fire Management Unit, Craig, Colorado, for two and half weeks. Their goals were to experience an American fire camp and learn as much as possible regarding all aspects of managing wildland fires and impacts to resources. To achieve this they shadowed fire officials and witnessed the Incident Command System in action.

Two encounters were of particular significance to Boris and Andreas. The first was the aerial tour over the Mad Creek Fire and the Routt blow down in the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness north of Steamboat Springs. Information concerning fire management in wilderness areas and the beetle infestation in the blow down was shared. The blow down was of particular interest since it holds similarities to the one in Germany in the Black Forest and provided an opportunity to compare strategies and management goals.



left to right is: FMO Kent Foster, Pilot, Boris Weigele, Andreas Casper boarding for flight over Mad Creek Fire

The second was the visit to the Alpine 2, Type I fire camp outside of Alpine, Wyoming. This was their first stay in a fire camp. Boris and Andreas visited the fire line, sat in on planning and strategy meetings and interfaced with fire personnel in various positions on the overhead team and other modules and

When asked about impacts and highlights of the trip, Boris expressed the sentiment of both when he said, “Seeing ICS not from the book, but experiencing it, makes it much easier to translate to practical application.” They gained a better understanding of overhead functions after lengthy discussions and visits with all the section chiefs. They were also impressed with the skills and efficiency of the type I and type II hand crews.

Andreas and Boris discussed ecosystem management and general resource concerns with Little Snake Field Office specialists. This was an educational opportunity for everyone involved, the exchange of information was two-sided. The visit was definitely a success and met the goals and objectives of the GFMC.

Note: Andreas and Boris’s travel and per-diem expenses were provided by the GFMC, located in Freiburg, Germany.



Visiting Russian smoke jumper (on left) Andreas Casper and Boris Weigele on the Alpine 2 fireline